

society and benefit daily from their tireless work. I invite everyone to take this week to thank our nation's engineers for their dedication, to recognize the countless ways they have made our world safer and more efficient, and to encourage the next generation of great engineers in their future endeavors.

INTRODUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT OF 2016

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today and introduce the Environmental Justice Act of 2016.

Twenty-four years ago, I first introduced the Environmental Justice Act of 1992, with my good friend and former colleague Senator Al Gore. After introducing our bill, we worked tirelessly to advance many of the policies proposed in our legislation. On February 11, 1994, President Clinton signed Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations". This historic Executive Order established the federal infrastructure to identify and address environmental risks—especially in minority and low-income communities that were often overlooked and underserved.

At that time, Senator Gore and I believed that every person has the right to safe water and clean air. We believed children and parents in every community deserve access to green public spaces. Since then many of the ideas that we proposed in our 1992 bill have been adopted by the EPA. For example, resources like EJSCREEN, help anyone in the country find a report on the quality of their neighborhood's water and air.

Mr. Speaker, there is still much work to be done. The threats and needs are changing, but the urgency of and my commitment to this important and evolving challenge remain the same. In Georgia's 5th Congressional District and across the country, many people find that even when a serious environmental problem is discovered, it is difficult for them to take action. This bill responds to this grave reality and makes progress in the fight for every person to have equal access to a healthy environment.

The Environmental Justice Act of 2016 will create a tax incentive for 501(c)(3) organizations, like colleges and universities, to devote staff and resources to the hard work of environmental justice. This bill is intended to encourage scientists, activists, and organizers to invest their talents into ensuring that existing environmental protections are improved and enforced in every community. People must know their rights and the tools that are available to them. This bill will not only advance the conversation but also invest in the effort.

Mr. Speaker, I know that we can come together to address this important national issue. We cannot ignore the public health and safety of our communities. We cannot cut corners at the expense of our friends and neighbors. We must fully respect the life and dignity of each and every person, and uphold their right to live, learn, and work in a clean and safe environment.

We must cherish this Earth; for it is the only home we will likely ever know. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in supporting this common-sense legislation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. VEVESI LEMAFI

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the lifelong service and career of Mr. Vevesi Lemafi, a son of American Samoa.

Vevesi, was born in Pago Pago American Samoa, and attended high school at Faga'itua High School, graduating in 1976.

Following his academic career; longing to see other parts of the world, Vevesi joined United States Army in March of 1977, and attended Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. During Vevesi's time in the military, which spanned 15 years, he served several overseas tours in Germany, and Korea before separating at the rank of Sergeant in 1991.

Vevesi, and his lovely wife Matautu E. Lemafi, who also served in the U.S. Army are the parents to three wonderful children; two sons, Evile and Vesi, and their daughter Meleane, as well as their grandson Vevesi TeToa Fiapa'i Lemafi.

Following his military career, Vevesi and his wife Matautu continued their service to our nation, and were both employed with the Department of the Army as civilian employees.

In his civilian role, Mr. Lemafi has served as the Administrative Officer and Human Resources Specialist for Schofield Barracks in Hawaii for 22 years, which combined with his military service, gives him a total of 37 years of federal service to our nation.

As a member of the Mission Support Element (MSE)—Hawaii, under the Senior Commander of the U.S. Army Pacific Command, Vevesi has served as the Administrative Officer/Civilian Human Resources Specialist with the utmost honor, professionalism, dedication and loyalty.

Vevesi has assisted managers of the Mission Support Element—Hawaii through his effective programming, and vast knowledge of the many facets of the civilian human resources program.

Known to always go the extra mile when performing his duties, Vevesi's people-oriented style earned himself the reputation of "the-go-to-man" for his exceptional, customer-first-based service, and accurate analysis with a positive and "can do" attitude.

Though Vevesi is retiring, those Mission Support Element employees who have worked with him have truly benefited through his selfless devotion to duty, and he has earned the respect and admiration of his command.

Due to his truly remarkable and commendable service to our grateful nation, I want to also state my support for his nomination for the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, and wish him the very best on his retirement.

God bless the United States and American Samoa.

CONGRATULATING ZANE CLARK ON RECEIVING THE CITIZEN SCHOLAR AWARD FROM MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Zane Clark, an outstanding student at Missouri State University, on his selection to receive the Citizen Scholar Award.

Each year, this prestigious award is given by Missouri State University's Board of Governors to students who have contributed to the university, furthered the university's public affairs mission, and have been significantly engaged in extra-curricular accomplishments or in important service activities in the community. Since the award was created in 2007, only forty-seven students have been recognized for their stellar achievements.

Zane, from Cameron, Missouri, was one of a handful of exceptional students to receive the award this year. He is presently a senior organizational communication major with minors in general business and economics. Zane has been recognized for his social awareness and compassion, along with his undying determination to significantly improve the world around him.

Mr. Speaker, Zane Clark's accomplishments have set a great example of what a Citizen Scholar should be. This award represents a great deal of his hard work and dedication. I am proud to represent students like him and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this well-deserved achievement.

HONORING MR. MADISON MARYE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Mr. Madison Marye, who passed away on February 23 at the age of 90. Madison was a longtime state senator from Montgomery County, and I had the honor of serving in the Virginia General Assembly with him. Though we disagreed from time to time, he was always a gentleman and a person I liked very much.

Madison loved the communities of Shawsville and Elliston where he grew up. Madison joined the United States Army, and served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War before he retired as a major, which he said is further than he ever expected to have advanced in the military.

He returned to Elliston to farm, and he opened a gas station as well. In 1973, Madison ran for and was elected to the Virginia Senate. While in Richmond, he served on various committees but was most proud of his seat on the Senate Finance Committee as well as his service on the Senate Agriculture Committee. Without a doubt, Madison, for decades, was a feisty legislator and fierce advocate for his rural constituency.

Madison is survived by his wife Charlotte; his daughter, Charlotte Hawes and husband

Michael; his son, James; four beautiful grandchildren, Madison Tyler, Jim, Julia, and Emily; and one great-granddaughter, Romina.

Madison was a great, memorable personality and a good man. He will be fondly remembered and missed by many in Shawsville and the greater New River Valley. While I note with great sadness Madison's passing, I am confident that his legacy will live on. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones.

GETTING THE WORDS RIGHT: OUR NATIONS COURT REPORTERS AND HOUSE CLERKS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the backbone of the court system, courtroom reporters make sure that the system works efficiently. Tasked with keeping complete, accurate and secure records, courtroom reporters handle verbatim documentation of criminal, civil or other court proceedings.

These individuals are highly skilled and trained in court reporting, which usually involves stenography. Reporting for the courts involves taking records of court proceedings, depositions, and administrative hearings, among other things.

They record everything that is being said in the courtroom by judges, witnesses, attorneys or other parties, as well as gestures and emotional reactions that accompany any statements.

While taking shorthand notes, they must accurately capture the spoken word. This does not mean paraphrasing or capturing every other word. Reporters must capture each word verbatim, with correct spelling and punctuation, despite the speed in which individuals are talking. After the hearing is over, they then must transcribe their notes into a readable, workable format for the public record.

Sometimes, a court reporters work benefits those with special needs, such as the deaf or hard of hearing. Court reporters can even provide closed captioning or a real-time translation of spoken words.

During my 22 years as a judge in Texas, I had many court reporters who capably kept records of every word said in the courtroom. Being a court reporter is no easy feat, stressors come from every direction including security issues and daily deadlines.

In the House of Representatives, we have clerks who help us and our staff every day. These individuals serve as the congressional stenographers, working diligently, day in and day out. These individuals take notes on congressional hearings and floor debate, speeches and statements. They then work extremely fast to enter all the statements into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Every single entry must be completely correct. Each statement made goes on the record in congressional history. These individuals work becomes ensures that history is written correctly. Without their diligence we would not be able to do our jobs as efficiently.

These highly trained and talented men and women work tenaciously to record correctly the proceedings of courts and .

Court Reporters and Floor Clerks are truly a vital asset to Judges and Members of Congress. We thank them for getting the words right.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF BRIDGE STREET A.M.E. CHURCH

HON. HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 250th anniversary of the historic and illustrious Bridge Street African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church. Reverend David B. Cousin, Sr. and members of the congregation will commemorate this special milestone on Sunday, February 28, 2016 at Bridge Street A.M.E. Church in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, New York.

Bridge Street is a church with a rich history that spans two and a half centuries. From its missionary origins in 1766 to its current location at 277 Stuyvesant Avenue in Brooklyn, it continues to be an extraordinary institution deeply rooted in social justice and spiritual transformation. As a stop on the Underground Railroad and platform for speaking out against injustice on both local and national issues, Bridge Street is a voice of conscience representing the least of those in our society.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church is a global religious body with over 2.5 million members, who belong to more than 6,000 congregations throughout 20 Episcopal districts across the Americas, Africa, Europe and India. In 1818, Bishop Richard Allen served as the first preacher of the A.M.E. Church, one of the oldest Protestant denominations established on American soil, at Bridge Street.

The people of New York are grateful for the exemplary leadership of Reverend David B. Cousin, Sr., who was installed as the Pastor of Bridge Street A.M.E. Church in 1997. Under his guidance, and that of his predecessors, the congregation has touched the lives of countless individuals through their extensive services and wide range of active ministries, which include notable educational, civic engagement, health and wellness, music and youth mentorship programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the Bridge Street A.M.E. Church in commemoration of its 250th anniversary. This church community has dedicated itself to serving the people of New York, and those of our country, in pursuit of a just and moral nation.

COMMEMORATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Sisters of St. Francis of the Im-

maculate Conception on the celebration of 125 years of service by making God's compassionate presence known throughout Central Illinois.

Since 1891, the Sisters of St. Francis have dedicated their lives to serving the people of God through prayer, community activism, and striving to meet the needs of the Peoria and Springfield Diocese.

By playing an active role within the Roman Catholic Church, these women have made great strides in promoting public awareness of their mission. Their ongoing efforts make a difference every day in the lives of the people in our community. Their commitment to help the lives of the poor, uneducated, and the hungry embodies the attributes of true servants of Christ.

On February 2, 2016, the women of St. Francis celebrated 125 years encompassed in the spirit of charity, religion, and community. As a native of Peoria and practicing Catholic, I consider myself fortunate that our community has women devoted to spreading a "Caring, Praying Presence" and the love of God through compassion and service.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MS. MARGARET HOSTETLER

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, Margaret Hostetler ends her decades of service to the Committee on Ways and Means. Margaret has served the Committee for many years, first starting in 1987, and will be deeply missed.

Most recently, Margaret worked on the Social Security Subcommittee staff, and is the Committee's all-time expert on budgets, trust funds, debt limits and more.

Margaret's service to the Congress and the Nation extends back even before her time with the Committee to the early 1980s when she served on the House Budget Committee staff for then-Chairman Bill Roth of Delaware. She helped design the Thrift Savings Plan for federal workers, the original Gramm Rudman law and the 1986 tax reforms.

Margaret is a walking encyclopedia of Committee and Congressional history, and we wish her the very best in the next phase of her life.

A TRIBUTE ON THE 28TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2016

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 28th anniversary of the pogrom against the Armenian residents of the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. On this day in 1988, and for three days following, Azerbaijani mobs assaulted and killed Armenians. When the violence finally subsided, hundreds of Armenian civilians had been brutally murdered and injured, women and young girls were raped, and victims were tortured and burned alive. Those